United Nations S/2013/611

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 October 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 14 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to the recent seventh annual joint consultative meeting between members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and members of the United Nations Security Council, held in Addis Ababa at African Union headquarters, on 8 October 2013.

During the consultative meeting, members of both Councils adopted a joint communiqué reaffirming the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council as the maintenance of international peace and security, along with the mandate of the Peace and Security Council to promote peace and security in Africa as provided in the African Union Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council.

With Rwanda chairing the Ad Hoc Working Group on Prevention of Conflict in Africa and as co-lead in the Addis Ababa leg of the Security Council trip, I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eugène-Richard **Gasana**
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Permanent Representative to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué of the seventh annual joint consultative meeting between members of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

1. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the members of the United Nations Security Council held their seventh annual joint consultative meeting at African Union headquarters, in Addis Ababa on 8 October 2013.

2. Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa as provided in the African Union Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council, also reaffirming the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of disputes among and within their Member States and recalling the outcomes of their previous consultative meetings, the Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reviewed matters of common interest, in particular the conflict and crisis situations in Africa, as well as ways and means of strengthening the partnership between the two organs consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter and the relevant provisions of the Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council.

On the situation in the Great Lakes Region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

3. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed deep concern at the security and humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, resulting from the ongoing destabilizing activities of the 23 March Movement (M23) and other armed groups, including the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and the Allied Democratic Forces. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council strongly condemned the resumption of hostilities by M23. They further condemned the shelling of Rwandan territory and the activities of all armed groups. They demanded that these armed groups immediately cease all forms of violence and destabilizing activities, including sexual and gender-based violence, the continuing recruitment and use of children, human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council called upon all the countries of the region to fully implement their commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework in dealing with armed groups.

4. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the contribution of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to a comprehensive approach to addressing the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The two Councils acknowledged the commitment of all troop-contributing countries to MONUSCO towards implementing the full range of responsibilities under the civilian protection mandate of the Mission, including the responsibilities

assigned to the Intervention Brigade, in line with Security Council resolution 2098 (2013). The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council further welcomed the progress made in the deployment and operationalization of the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade, as authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 2098 (2013) and supported by the Peace and Security Council. They expressed their appreciation to the troop-contributing countries for their contributions to the establishment of the Brigade.

5. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the efforts being deployed by the countries of the region and the international community to address the prevailing situation. They welcomed the signing, in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013, of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, and the steps taken towards its implementation. They noted with satisfaction the outcome of the second meeting of the regional oversight mechanism, which took place in New York on 23 September 2013. They urged all signatory countries to pursue and intensify their efforts towards the effective implementation of the commitments entered into under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. They underscored the importance of the Kampala Dialogue and noted with appreciation the call of the seventh extraordinary summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, held in Kampala on 5 September 2013, upon the parties to the Kampala Dialogue to bring it to a swift conclusion in line with the national, regional and international efforts to achieve durable peace.

6. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the visit undertaken in the region by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank and the recent joint visit undertaken by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, the European Union Senior Coordinator for the Great Lakes and the United States Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region. They expressed appreciation to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and to the Southern African Development Community for their commitment and efforts.

7. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council called upon international development partners to support the countries of the region to work towards the provision of immediate peace dividends on the ground, through quick-impact projects at the local and regional levels targeting, in particular, women and youth, and through other relevant projects of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Region, aimed at strengthening regional cooperation, including deepening economic integration.

On the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan

8. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the progress made in the normalization of relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, including the outcomes of the summit meeting between the Presidents of the two countries, held in Khartoum on 3 September 2013. They urged the two countries, building on that progress, to resolutely pursue the objective of building two viable States living side by side in peace. They stressed the need for

the two countries to spare no efforts towards resolving outstanding issues, including the disputed and claimed border areas and the final status of the Abyei Area. They encouraged the two countries to finalize the determination of the centreline of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.

9. Noting with appreciation the Peace and Security Council communiqué of 23 September 2013 and expressing their concern at the prevailing situation in the Abyei Area, the Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the commitment by the two Presidents to proceed expeditiously with the implementation of the Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area of 20 June 2011, urged them to establish the Abyei Referendum Commission and appealed to all concerned to desist from any unilateral action that could heighten tension and complicate the search for a solution, as well as to ensure that the Abyei Area is a weapon-free zone. They strongly encouraged the parties to resume discussions over the Proposal of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel of 21 September 2012, in order to resolve the final status of the Abyei Area through mutually acceptable arrangements. They looked forward to the planned mission of the Peace and Security Council to Abyei and to its assessment and recommendations.

10. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed concern at the situation prevailing in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in the Sudan. Stressing once more that there is no military solution to the conflict, they called upon the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) to cease hostilities and resume negotiations in order to reach a political settlement and to extend full cooperation to the High-level Implementation Panel and the Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in their facilitation role. They called upon the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N to facilitate safe and unhindered humanitarian access for the timely and full delivery of humanitarian aid to all civilians in urgent need of assistance, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance. They further called upon them to urgently resolve all technical problems to allow the conduct of an anti-polio vaccination campaign for children.

11. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council urged the parties to internal armed conflicts of the Sudan and South Sudan, notably the prevailing situation in Jonglei State in South Sudan and the situations in Darfur and in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States in the Sudan, to seek peaceful solutions to those conflicts.

12. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated their appreciation to the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan and South Sudan and encouraged it to actively continue to implement its mandate. They also expressed appreciation to the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan and to the relevant international partners for their support to the Implementation Panel and contribution to the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Sudan and South Sudan and the enhancement of confidence between the two countries.

13. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed appreciation to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in

Darfur, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei.

On the situation in Somalia

14. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the significant progress made in Somalia since the completion of the transitional period in August 2012. They stressed the need for further progress in the dialogue and reconciliation process between Somali stakeholders aimed at developing a federal system in Somalia. In this regard, they commended the Federal Government of Somalia and the Somaliland region for their engagement, and called for its active continuation. They also commended the signing, on 28 August 2013, of an agreement by the Federal Government of Somalia and the Interim Jubba Administration, under the mediation of Ethiopia, in its capacity as Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

15. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the crucial role of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and its troop- and police-contributing countries in furthering stabilization in Somalia, thereby allowing the political process to unfold. They welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), and noted with satisfaction the close coordination of efforts and collaboration between AMISOM and UNSOM. They acknowledged the need to enhance the capacity of AMISOM and the Somali security forces, to enable them to consolidate the gains made and expand the areas under the control of the Federal Government of Somalia. In that context, they look forward to the proposals made by the joint United Nations and African Union review of AMISOM, in accordance with paragraph 19 of Security Council resolution 2093 (2013) and relevant decisions of the Peace and Security Council. They look forward to considering the report to be submitted in this respect. They commended the support provided by the United Nations, the European Union and other international partners of AMISOM and stressed the need for long-term funding for both AMISOM and the Somali national security forces, and emphasized the urgent need for new donors to come forward and support AMISOM through contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of AMISOM.

16. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council took note of the Somalia Compact, which was endorsed at the New Deal Conference co-hosted by the Federal Government of Somalia and the European Union, in Brussels on 16 September 2013, and which aims at ensuring Somali ownership and predictable, coordinated and transparent international support.

17. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia to improving human rights. In that context, they expressed their concern at reports of violations of human rights. They also expressed their concern at the ongoing humanitarian crisis and emphasized the need for continued humanitarian access and assistance to millions of vulnerable Somalis.

18. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council strongly condemned the terrorist attack of 21 September 2013, in Nairobi. They underlined that the terrorist attack highlights the need for renewed efforts to address the scourge of terrorism. They reiterated their determination to continue their cooperative efforts in Somalia, in order to rid the country and the region of terrorist

and criminal groups, and bring about lasting peace, security and stability in Somalia and the region.

On the situation in the Central African Republic

19. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed deep concern at the security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic and stressed the need, as a matter of priority, to expedite efforts aimed at restoring security in the country.

20. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council underscored the primary responsibility of the authorities in the Central African Republic to maintain law and order, promote security and protect the civilian population, giving particular attention to the specific needs of women and children. They strongly condemned the continued violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by armed groups, particularly Seleka elements, as well as continued atrocities committed by the Lord's Resistance Army. They encouraged the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR), after its deployment, and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, in the context of its regular reporting to the Security Council, to report on these human rights abuses and other violations perpetrated by armed groups, in particular against children and women.

21. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the ongoing efforts towards the early deployment of AFISM-CAR. They called upon the international community to extend support to that end, to enable the African Union and the region to stabilize the situation. They stressed the importance of the work of bilateral and multilateral partners to enhance the capacity of the Central African Republic defence and security forces, as well as their support to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform processes.

22. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council commended the efforts by the Economic Community of the Central African States, by the African Union and the countries in the region in support of the ongoing transition and the restoration of constitutional order. They highlighted the critical role of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, co-chaired by the African Union and the Republic of Congo, in ensuring coordinated international support to the ongoing efforts in the Central African Republic. They looked forward to the next meeting of the International Contact Group.

On the situation in the Sahel

23. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the significant progress being made in stabilizing the situation in Mali, which facilitated the peaceful and successful holding of the presidential election on 28 July and 11 August 2013. They expressed their congratulations to the newly elected President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, and renewed their commitment to continue to support Mali, in order to consolidate the gains made and enable the country to tackle the multidimensional challenges facing it. They called on the Malian stakeholders to make renewed efforts towards the effective implementation of the Ouagadougou Preliminary Agreement to the Presidential Election and Inclusive Peace Talks, signed in Ouagadougou on 18 June 2013 and the promotion of an inclusive national reconciliation process.

24. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council welcomed the progress made in the deployment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), as authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 2100 (2013), and called upon the members of the international community to continue to support the Mission, bearing in mind the continued fragility of the situation in northern Mali. They stressed the need for continued close collaboration between the High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Mali.

25. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council expressed concern about the security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel region and the need for a holistic approach to address the challenges at hand. They recognized that the strengthening of State institutions, inclusive economic and social development and respect for human rights and the rule of law are necessary to ensure long-term security, development and stability in the Sahel region. In that regard, they welcomed the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and the convening, on the margins of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, of a high-level meeting on the Sahel. They welcomed the holding of the United Nations conference on the cooperation on border control in the Sahel and Maghreb, in Rabat. They further welcomed the African Union-led Nouakchott Process on the enhancement of security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Sahara region, as well as the follow-up meetings that took place. They expressed support to these two processes, encouraged the holding of follow-up activities building on their conclusions and emphasized the importance of regional, interregional, and international coordination in addressing the security threats in the Sahel region. They called upon the international partners to fully support these processes.

26. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated their commitment to support the Sahel region in addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting the region in its security and socioeconomic development efforts.

Strengthening the African Union-United Nations partnership

27. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council assessed the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations with regard to the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa. They welcomed the progress made so far in forging a more coherent and effective partnership between the African Union and the United Nations consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter and stressed that common and coordinated efforts undertaken by the two Councils, in matters of peace and security should be based on their respective authorities, competencies and capacities. In that respect, they noted with satisfaction the pursuit of the joint annual consultative meetings between the Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council; and the continued functioning of the mechanisms established between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat to foster strategic partnership and operational coordination. They further noted the collaborative efforts in other conflict and crisis situations; as well as the cooperation in a number of other cross-cutting areas, including enhanced collaboration between the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission and the Office of the Special

Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the enhancement of the United Nations Office to the African Union.

28. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council stressed the need for continued efforts to enhance the existing partnership at both the strategic and operational levels, in order to ensure greater synergy and coherence and a more effective response to the evolving peace and security challenges facing the African continent. In that respect, they undertook to conduct necessary consultations to ensure the effective implementation of the steps agreed upon at their previous meetings. Furthermore, the Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council reiterated the need for the agenda of their annual joint consultative meetings to be agreed in advance and to include an item in such an agenda on issues that require follow-up, in line with the communiqué of the fourth annual joint consultative meeting, held in New York on 9 July 2010.

29. The Peace and Security Council and the members of the Security Council agreed to convene their eighth annual joint consultative meeting in New York in June 2014. The date of the meeting will be determined through consultations between the Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the President of the United Nations Security Council.